

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 EB-11 FEA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCI-06

INT-08 ACDA-19 DLOS-07 DRC-01 /180 W

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P R 250445Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4286

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

SECDEF WASHDC

USNATO 3062

USUN 1536

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY ECJ-2

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN.

REF: A. ANKARA 3550; B. ANKARA 3701 C. ANKARA 3369

BEGIN SUMMARY. WHILE PRESS STORY THAT A US FIRM HAS ALREADY
CONTRACTED TO BEGIN SEISMIC WORK FOR TURKEY IN AEGEAN IS MISLEADING,
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WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT SUCH A CONTRACT FOR OIL EXPLORATION MAY

BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK. WE REPEAT EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT US FIRMS BE WARNED OF RISK OF DOING EXPLORATORY WORK AT THIS TIME FOR EITHER TURKEY OR GREECE IN DISPUTED EASTERN AEGEAN AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY (TPAO) OFFICIAL ON MAY 24 TOLD EMBOFF THAT AP (AND ANTOLIAN AGENCY) STORY THAT US FIRM GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES INC. (GSI) OF DALLAS HAS BEEN CONTRACTED BY TPAO TO BEGIN SEISMIC STUDIES IN AEGEAN AT END OF JUNE WAS MISLEADING. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN TPAO AND GIS ON SUCH SEISMIC WORK, BUT CONTRACT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. GSI REPRESENTATIVE, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED TO COME TO TURKEY NEXT WEEK TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS. GSI TURKISH REP TOLD US SUBSTANTIALLY SAME STORY ON MAY 7 (REF A). WE HAVE EARLIER EXPRESSED OUR BELIEF THAT CRISIS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE OVER AEGEAN COULD OCCUR WHEN A VESSEL UNDER CONTRACT TO TURKEY ACTUALLY BEGINS EXPLORATORY WORK FOR OIL IN DISPUTED EASTERN AEGEAN AREA (REF B). WE REPEAT OUR RECOMMENDATION IN REF B THAT DEPARTMENT WARN GSI AND OTHER INTERESTED U.S. CONTRACTORS OF RISK OF OPERATING UNDER CONTRACT TO EITHER TURKEY OR GREECE IN DISPUTED AREA WHILE TENSIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES REMAIN HIGH ON THIS ISSUE.

2. MEANWHILE, TURKISH PRESS REPORTS THAT PARLIAMENT IS PREPARING BILL WHICH, WHEN LEGISLATED, WOULD GIVE GOVERNMENT POWER TO ISSUE DECREES WITH FORCE OF LAW ON EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FOR OIL AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. IF TRUE, SUCH A MEASURE WOULD ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO ACT WHEN PARLIAMENT IS IN SUMMER RECESS, AND MORE RAPIDLY THAN USUAL IN ANY EVENT. WE HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED WHETHER THIS BILL IS SAME AS ONE TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROTECTION OF TURKEY'S TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM THE GENDARMEIRE TO THE TURKISH NAVY (REF C).
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